

for instance, deciding that African Americans could not be U.S. citizens, upholding the cruel and unjust internment of Japanese Americans during World War I, maintaining segregation, and striking down key provisions protecting access to voting.

Make no mistake, Judge Kavanaugh poses a serious threat to the rights that we hold so dear. Take, for instance, the case of Jane Doe, the teenage girl who sought an abortion last year while being held in government custody in Texas.

Jane Doe did everything herself to secure that abortion. She got permission from a judge. She got her own transportation. And yet, the Federal Government physically blocked her from leaving the government-run shelter where she was detained.

So then the ACLU sued on her behalf, and her case eventually made it in front of Judge Kavanaugh. Although he recognized the time sensitivity, even clarifying that she would no longer be able to seek a legal abortion in Texas at 20 weeks, Judge Kavanaugh blocked Jane Doe's access to her legally allowable abortion when she was about 15 weeks pregnant. He gave the Trump administration 11 more days to find a sponsor, a process that he was aware takes months to complete. He told Jane Doe that, after those 11 days, she could ask a lower court again for an abortion. If at 17 weeks she was unsuccessful, then he told her that she could bring it up again to him for consideration, which would have been scheduled when she was, at that point, 18 or 19 weeks pregnant, if she were lucky. Court delays could have pushed it even further, seriously putting her at risk of being outside the window to obtain something that was her legal right.

But, fortunately, the full court overturned Judge Kavanaugh's decision a few days later, and Jane Doe was able to proceed in the course that she chose for her own body, a decision that Judge Kavanaugh vehemently opposed.

Fortunately for Jane Doe, Judge Kavanaugh's decision was not the crucial vote deciding her future. But if Judge Kavanaugh is confirmed, the rest of the country will not be so lucky.

There is broad consensus that Judge Kavanaugh would be a decisive vote to eliminate women's constitutionally protected right to abortion, a right, by the way, that is not partisan. Seventy-one percent of voters support that right.

In addition, Judge Kavanaugh's record shows that he could be the deciding vote to undermine access to healthcare for millions of Americans. He has written dissenting opinions in three cases that would have undermined the Affordable Care Act. In one of those dissenting opinions, Judge Kavanaugh argued that a President could choose not to enforce a law like the Affordable Care Act if he thought it was unconstitutional, even if a court had already ruled that it is constitutional.

Further, in a 2013 speech, Judge Kavanaugh said that it is "a traditional exercise of power by Presidents" to pick and choose which laws to enforce. At a time when we are hearing reports from the highest levels of our government that top aides to the President are literally hiding papers from him so that he cannot execute orders that they view as dangerous to our security and would result in geopolitical crises, what we need is a Justice who will serve as a check on the executive, as our Founders intended.

The Senate has a responsibility to the American people to fully vet Supreme Court nominees. The most basic function is for them to do the leg work of obtaining all records related to those nominees. I strongly urge my Senate colleagues to adjourn the Kavanaugh hearing, as Senator BLUMENTHAL and my good colleagues proposed. A "no" vote is a vote for the people.

DISTRICT TRAVEL DURING AUGUST WEEK PERIOD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Alabama (Mrs. ROBY) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share an update with the people I represent in Alabama on my travels during the August district work period.

Each year, all of the Members of Congress take the month of August to spend time on the ground in their respective districts, meeting with constituents and local leaders, businesses, industries, and, ultimately, listening to the concerns of the people at home.

Having this opportunity to hear firsthand from the people who live and work in Alabama's Second District is very important, and I believe it enables me to be a better representative of our shared priorities while I am here in Washington.

It was a busy month. I was fortunate to spend time in Montgomery, Ozark, Hartford, Geneva, Millbrook, Troy, Dothan, Fort Rucker, and Hope Hull.

During my time in Montgomery, I met with Elmore County Commissioner Troy Stubbs, Alabama Farm Service Agency director David McCurdy, leadership from Deatsville's Ingram State Community College, members of the Alabama Association of School Boards, folks from the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency's Fusion Center, and more.

Also in Montgomery, I visited the Gift of Life Foundation's office, toured the MOOseum at the Alabama Cattle-men's Association, spoke to the American Society of Civil Engineers at their lunch meeting, stopped by Sabel Steel for a visit, addressed the Squadron Officer School at Maxwell-Gunter Air Force Base, toured Common Ground Ministries' Mercy House facility, and more.

In Ozark, I paid a visit to Wayne Farms to tour their recently opened feed mill.

In Hartford, I participated in a meeting about rural broadband development efforts with Wiregrass Electric Cooperative.

In Geneva, I had the opportunity to tour the impressive, newly completed career tech center called G-Tech.

In Millbrook, I was privileged to speak to the Millbrook-Coosada Kiwanis Club during their weekly lunch meeting.

In Troy, I visited with Troy Cable to learn more about their upcoming projects and some of the issues they have recently been facing.

In Dothan, I spoke to the Wiregrass chapter of the Association of General Contractors. We had a great discussion about a wide variety of topics, including efforts right here in Congress to revitalize our Nation's badly aging infrastructure.

I also visited Dothan Behavioral Medicine Clinic, where I received a briefing about Clinicom technology that is being used to diagnose mental illness. Mental health is an acute problem in this country, and I was pleased to learn more about their work.

I stopped by Fort Rucker to tour the aeromedical research laboratory. I talked with many employees there about the importance of Army Aviation to our national security and the innovation happening on-post right in the Second District.

I visited the Army Aviation support facility in Hope Hull for a briefing and an overview on their facility as well. While I was there, I enjoyed talking with General Gordon and Colonel Bass and many others.

Mr. Speaker, these are just some of the many productive, informative meetings I had during this August district work period. Now that the month is behind us, I would like to extend a sincere thank you to all the individuals, businesses, local officials, and others who hosted me and visited with me over the last several weeks.

It is always a true joy to be back at home visiting the various communities across Alabama's Second District, and I look forward to more opportunities to learn from the people I represent.

WASHINGTON'S CULTURE OF CORRUPTION IS OUT OF CONTROL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, wages are down; gas prices are up; and the culture of corruption here in Washington, D.C., is out of control. And all the while, the 45th President of the United States of America spends more time on the golf course than any other President in American history.

Things are spiraling out of control. The stakes are incredibly high. Notwithstanding that, the 115th Congress has been one of the most unproductive Congresses in the history of the Nation.

□ 1030

Democrats and Republicans have two competing visions for what we need to do in order to make sure that every American can continue to experience the American Dream.

Democrats, we want to move the country forward. Others want to turn back the clock.

We are working hard to bring people together. Others are tearing us apart.

We are fighting for working families and middle-class folks. Others are fighting for the wealthy and the well off.

We believe in the public interest. Others are all about the special interests.

Democrats are fighting for the people. Others are fighting for the privileged few. We are fighting for working families, middle-class folks, senior citizens, the poor, the sick, the afflicted, veterans, people in rural America, urban America, suburban America.

Democrats are fighting for the people. But my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, unfortunately, are fighting for millionaires, billionaires, mega corporations, lobbyists, big donors, all to subsidize the lifestyles of the rich and shameless.

Exhibit A is the Republican tax scam. That is their signature piece of legislation. That is what they are talking to the American people about.

You are proud of the fact that you passed a bill where 83 percent of the benefits go to the wealthiest 1 percent in America, explodes the debt by more than \$1.5 trillion, then you want to come back to Congress and lecture us about cutting Social Security and Medicare? Are you kidding?

Our For the People agenda will focus on lowering healthcare costs, strengthening the Affordable Care Act, protecting people with preexisting conditions, more than 100 million Americans. They want to take away that protection. We are working hard to dramatically lower the cost of lifesaving prescription drugs. That is the Democratic For the People agenda.

Wage stagnation is still a problem for the American people. The productivity of the American worker over the last 40-plus years has increased by more than 285 percent. During the same period of time, wages have gone up by less than 10 percent.

The productivity gains of the American worker have not gone to the American worker, they have gone to the privileged few. What do the Republicans do about it? Pass a tax bill where 83 percent of the benefits go to the wealthiest 1 percent.

We have a different idea for what should take place. We are fighting for the people through increased pay anchored in a real infrastructure plan that will fix our crumbling bridges, roads, tunnels, ports, mass-transportation system; not a fake plan, it is a real plan. We will invest \$1 trillion, create 16 million good-paying jobs, fight to make sure that everyday

Americans can provide a comfortable living for themselves and for their families.

And, lastly, we are going to fight to clean up corruption here in Washington, D.C.; not talk about it, actually get something done to make sure that Washington works for the American people.

That is what you deserve. That is what Democrats are fighting hard to deliver: lower healthcare costs, increased pay, clean up corruption to make sure that Washington works for the people.

BLACK FAMILY FOUNDATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, this morning I would like to recognize the 25th anniversary of the Black Family Foundation of Erie, Pennsylvania.

The foundation was established in 1993 by a very distinguished constituent of mine, Mr. Samuel P. "Pat" Black, III, and his late father, an Erie legend, Mr. Samuel P. Black, Jr., who passed away in 2001 just 4 months shy of his 100th birthday.

According to its mission statement, the foundation exists to fund systemic change.

It proudly focuses on strategic non-profit investments throughout Erie County that leverage resources for the greatest gains in social progress.

Its vision is profound and very ambitious. It exists:

To promote continuous improvements in the quality of life around the globe by investing in projects that offer a high probability of not only transformational value, but also sustainable change.

Over the course of its respected history, the foundation has funded non-profit programs and organizations in the areas of health and welfare, entrepreneurial education, homelessness, environmental sustainability, economic initiatives, and technology initiatives.

Specifically, the organization has supported such initiatives as the creation of the Elizabeth Lee Black School at the Barber National Institute. This is an approved private school that offers state-of-the-art educational programs to children ages 3 through 21 with autism and intellectual and physical disabilities.

Over the last 15 years, Mr. Black and the Black Family Foundation have also supported hundreds of students through scholarships at Penn State's Behrend College and at Mercyhurst University.

In the last decade alone, the foundation has donated more than \$13 million throughout the Erie community and to worthy organizations around the world.

To Mr. Black and his family, we say: Happy anniversary, and may God bless

you for all that you do to help bless others.

RECOGNIZING MARGIE TOWERY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the life of a teacher who continues to have an indelible impact on Arkansas, Margie Towery, who is this year's Greenbrier School District Teacher of the Year.

Margie has dedicated her life to serving and educating Arkansas' youth.

This is her 26th year of teaching, including seven at the nearby University of Central Arkansas.

Margie is a big advocate for STEM education, particularly for young girls, and even takes her students to local universities to participate in their STEM activities.

She started and led the Rhetoric Society at the high school until she became a full-time sponsor of the student council.

Teachers like Margie prove that education is one of the best investments that America can make.

I am proud to represent her and all the teachers of central Arkansas who are making a difference for our youth.

ARNOLD HAMEISTER RETIREMENT

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of a man who has had a major impact on conservation and preservation throughout Arkansas, Mr. Arnold Hameister.

Arnold recently retired after 37 years of service to the Arkansas Forestry Commission.

He started his career with the Forestry Commission in 1981 as a tower operator in Heber Springs, and 6 months later became a full-time ranger.

Arnold then moved his family to Conway, where he served as the county ranger until he was hired by Best Management Practices as a specialist.

He ended his decades-long career as the program coordinator for water quality.

Arnold and his family were recently honored at a celebration at the Department of Agriculture headquarters in Little Rock.

Arnold's service to the State of Arkansas and to environmental conservation will never be forgotten, and I join all Arkansans in congratulating him on a remarkable career and a well-deserved retirement.

RECOGNIZING TAMIKA EDWARDS

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my friend, Tamika Edwards, who has just been named executive director of the Social Justice Institute at Philander Smith College.

Tamika has served her State and her country tirelessly throughout her whole career from her work as a former aide to U.S. Senator Blanche Lincoln, to her role as the Director of Governmental Affairs for Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families.